

WE CLAIM:

1. A method for using a color scheme to communicate information associated with an event and related to the integration of hardware and software in a computing device, comprising:
  - receiving an event at the computing device, the event corresponding to a software element that has an associated color scheme;
  - determining a color value associated with the event, the color value corresponding to the color scheme of the software element; and
  - illuminating a hardware element according to at least one of the color scheme associated with the software element and the color value of the event.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the software element is a display on a user interface of the computing device.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is a communications device.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the hardware element is at least one of a keypad, a software-defined soft key, a fascia, a lens, an antenna, and an accessory of a communications device.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the information communicated by the color scheme is at least one of a functional feature associated with the computing device, personal preferences associated with a user of the computing device, and a branding element associated with the event.
6. The method of Claim 1, wherein illuminating the hardware element further comprises illuminating an illuminating element, wherein the illuminating element is at least one of a tri-colored light emitting diode and an electro-luminescence light.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the event is at least one of an incoming call, a calendar reminder, a guide for user action, an indicator of available actions, a notice of availability of a new wireless network, a notice of loss of connectivity, and a user-instigated action.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the color scheme changes to communicate information corresponding to elapsed time associated with the event.

9. A system for using a color scheme to communicate information associated with an event and related to the integration of hardware and software in a computing device, comprising:

- a memory of the computing device that is arranged to receive an event, the event corresponding to a software element that has an associated color scheme;

- an illuminating element coupled to the memory; and

- a hardware element coupled to the illuminating element, wherein the illuminating element illuminates the hardware element according to the color scheme when the event is received.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the software element is a display on a user interface of the computing device.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein the computing device is a communications device.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein the hardware element is at least one of a keypad, a software-defined soft key, a fascia, a lens, an antenna, and an accessory of the communications device.

13. The system of Claim 9, wherein a color value associated with the event

is defined in the memory, and wherein the illuminating element illuminates the hardware element based on the color value.

14. The system of Claim 9, wherein the illuminating element is at least one of a tri-colored light emitting diode and an electro-luminescence light.

15. The system of Claim 9, wherein the information communicated by the color scheme includes at least one of a functional feature associated with the computing device, personal preferences associated with a user of the computing device, and a branding element associated with the event.

16. The system of Claim 9, wherein the event is at least one of an incoming call, a calendar reminder, a guide for user action, an indication of available actions, a notice of availability of a new wireless network, a notice of loss of connectivity, and a user-instigated action.

17. The system of Claim 9, wherein the color scheme changes to communicate information corresponding to elapsed time associated with the event.

18. A system for using a color scheme to communicate information associated with an event and related to the integration of hardware and software in a computing device, comprising:

means for receiving an event at the computing device, the event corresponding to a software element that has an associated color scheme;

means for determining a color value associated with the event, the color value corresponding to the color scheme of the software element; and

means for illuminating a hardware element according to at least one of the color scheme associated with the software element and the color value of the event.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the information communicated by the color scheme is at least one of a functional feature associated with the computing device, personal preferences associated with a user of the computing device, and a branding element associated with the event.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the computing device is a communications device.